

Please cancel claim 2 entirely without prejudice and without disclaimer.

Please amend claim 1 so that the text of the amended claim reads as follows:

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Please add new claims 5-7 as follows:

5. (New) A recombinant expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.

6. (New) The recombinant expression vector of claim 5, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

7. (New) A host cell comprising the recombinant expression vector of claim 5.--

RESPONSE

I. Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has determined that the original claims are directed to two separate and distinct inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121, as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-3, said to be drawn to a (*sic*) isolated nucleic acid encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5; and

Group II: Claim 4, said to be drawn to a (*sic*) isolated nucleic acid encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:16, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5.

II. Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby confirm the election without traverse, made by Applicants' representative Lance Ishimoto during a telephone conference with the Examiner on August 13, 2002, to prosecute the claims of the Group I invention (claims 1-3), drawn to an isolated nucleic acid encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5. Accordingly, claim 4 has been cancelled herein without prejudice and without disclaimer as being drawn to a non-elected invention.